Promotion to Pulses and Oil Seeds Production

4892. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any need to promote production of pulses and oil seeds for sustained food security of the country;

(b) if so, whether sufficient resources have been devoted towards pulses and oilseeds so as to meet balanced nutritional needs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. There is need to promote production of pulses and oilseeds for sustained food security of the country.

(b) and (c) For increasing the production of pulses and oilseeds in the country, two centrally sponsored schemes i.e. National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) and Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) are under implementation in 27 States/UTs and 25 States respectively. The Government of India have allocated Central Share of Rs. 35.00 crores and Rs. 92.00 crores for NPDP and OPP Schemes respectively for the implementation of these schemes during 2000-2001. The Schemes envisage financial assistance to the states for production and distribution of certified seeds, Seed minikits, rhyzobium culture, micro-nutrients, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, plant protection equipment etc. Besides, field demonstrations and farmers trainings are also being organised for the effective transfer of improved production technology. The Government of India announces each season the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for pulses and oilseeds. The NAFED being the Central nodal agency undertake market support operations in pulses and oilseeds if the prices falls below MSP fixed by the Government.

Slaughter Houses

4893. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many salughter houses have been given licences in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether it is fact that many more illegal slaughter houses are working and increasing in the country;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to stop such illegal slaughter houses; and

(d) how many cattle-heads have been slaughtered during 1997, 1998 and 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Welfare of Tobacco Farmers

4894. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ICAR has not shown adequate interest in the welfare of tobacco crop and farmers;

(b) whether it is a fact that the ICAR has not reacted promptly to various representations from tobacco growers associations for relief and intervention;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for this lethargic and distant approach of ICAR;

(d) whether it is a fact that ICAR is keen to reduce its involvement in tobacco; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the last 50 years the Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI), Rajahmundry under the aegis of ICAR has done commendable work in identifying high yielding tobacco varieties and developing package of practices which resulted in economic upliftment of tobacco farmers.

Prompt action by ICAR has always been taken on the representations received from tobacco growers/associations within the area jurisdiction of its mandated operations.

(c) Question does not arise, Sir.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. ICAR is giving full encouragement and sufficient funding for conducting various research activities on tobacco for the welfare of